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CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
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VOLUME 26 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., SEPTEMBER, 1944 NUMBER 9

Bird Observations in a Cemetery

In a letter written to Miss MacIver a few months ago, Gordon writes: "Yesterday I took a walk by myself in one of the larger cemeteries in St. Louis, Mo., and was more than fully rewarded. No less than seven species presented themselves to me for the first time on this most enjoyable day. In addition I saw much of several other species that have only lately come into my sphere, and of course many that have been old friends for quite a while.

"The first of the new ones was a handsome Red-bellied Woodpecker that so much resembles the equally striking Golden-fronted Woodpecker I came to know in Texas. Pictures can't do these birds justice. Black-faced Field Sparrows was the second new species on my list for the day. They are quite numerous and easy to see as they flock with the larger species. Here the White-throated Sparrows outnumber the White-crowned. Also, Thrashers and Spotted Towhees (Chewinks) have reversed the ratio I knew in California.

"It was along a small watercourse in the cemetery that birding became almost too concentrated. I spotted a Black and White Warbler working around a tree trunk as I was sneaking up on a beautiful Green Heron. At almost the same instant another warbler appeared, a Parula Warbler in full plumage. He was quite close and on eye-level as he fed in and out of the sunlight.

"A Broad-winged Hawk seemed curious as he sailed overheard. We were seeing each other for the first time, but I had the advantage — I could look him up. My sixth new species soon followed in the shape of a most obliging Louisiana Water-thrush that tried so hard, it seemed, to act like a Spotted Sandpiper. Like the Black and White Warbler it was so characteristic of all that has been written about it that it seemed more like an old friend than a new one.

"Not long after this meeting my final new bird was 'bagged'. It too was a warbler and it too had an un-warbler-like habit. All the birds of this species that I saw were vigorously pumping their tails after the manner of Pipits. This characteristic combined with their rust-colored caps made their identificaton as Palm Warblers easy.

"I have been here less than three weeks now and have already seen thirteen new species. After I have found some varied habitat spots I should really do well for myself. I still have better than three months here and intend to make the most of them from a birding viewpoint. I feel that I have gotten off to a good start.

Gordon Bolander."

August Meeting

The 323rd meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific was held Thursday evening, August 10, 1944 in the Public Library Auditorium, San Francisco, California. President Arthur H. Myer presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

Field observations were made by Miss Frances J. Blake, Miss Dorothy Chandler, Mrs. Enid Austin, Mrs. Sadie Bozant, Mr. H. V. Leffler, Mr. Bert Harwell, Mr. Walter Bradley, and Mr. J. J. Webb who reported finding the Turkey Vulture and spending an hour observing him.

Mrs. G. Earle Kelly asked members to mail their list of field observations to her at 1311 Grand Avenue, Alameda.

The speaker of the evening, Captain T. Eric Reynolds, U.S.N.R., brought 19 specimens from his collection of birds found in the South Pacific to illustrate his talk on "Observing Birds in the South Pacific". In the war zone Dr. Reynolds met other ornithologists and they made a bird census of their own on Christmas Day. Dr. Reynolds generously answered questions from the floor, and told the members of the absence of Gulls and Fish birds in that part of the world, though the old Barn Owl was present.

More than forty members were present.

Owing to the library closing at 9 o'clock, the meeting convened at 7:30 p.m.

August Field Trip

The August field trip was taken on Sunday, the 13th to Dimond Park, Oakland and extended over a mile along a stream into the Oakland hills under the fine leadership of Miss Joan Kirk.

The morning was cool while the forenoon and afternoon were pleasantly warm.

Before lunch interesting observations were made of a Western Flycatcher feeding her young in a nearby bush and young Willow Goldfinches following the parent bird, apparently in the hope of another feeding.

The party had lunch in the shade by the stream. After lunch some of the party dispersed while the remainder continued farther into the hills where interesting observations were made of several Purple Finches feeding on elderberries and two young Pileolated Warblers being fed by the male parent.

The following twenty-nine species were observed:

California Quail	Plain Titmouse	Black-headed Grosbeak
Mourning Dove	Bush-tit	California Purple Finch
Anna Hummingbird	Wren-tit	House Finch
Allen Hummingbird	Western Robin	Pine Siskin
Red-shafted Flicker	Russet-backed Thrush	Willow Goldfinch
Black Phoebe	Western Warbling Vireo	Green-backed Goldfinch
Western Flycatcher	Pileolated Warbler	Spotted Towhee
Crested Jay	English Sparrow	Junco
California Jay	Brewer Blackbird	Song Sparrow

There were nine members and twelve guests on the outing. Members attending were Mr. and Mrs. Kilham, Mr. and Mrs. Myer, Mesdames Bozant, Curtis, Misses Chandler, Kirk, and Mr. Brock.

—Donald Brock, Historian

August Junior Field Trip

The Juniors' trip occurred on Saturday, August 12th, and was taken to the Alameda beaches to see shore birds. We were very fortunate in having the leadership of Mrs. Junea W. Kelly who joined us soon after we arrived at our meeting place. This made the day much more enjoyable and profitable to the eight juniors, who were present, and also to the regular leaders, Mrs. E. Richardson and Miss C. A. Paroni. Mrs. V. K. Curtis, an Audubon Association member, was a welcome visitor that day, as were also two girl-scout leaders, Mrs. P. Higley and Mrs. H. A. Berry.

The day was overcast, making it difficult to identify the somberly clad shore birds against the gray sky and grayer beach. The tide was low and the birds began gathering in small groups when the trip started at 10:30 a.m. On our way through Lincoln Park from the bus line to the beach a few land birds were observed. These were: Bush-tit, English Sparrow, and Spotted Towhee. In the open marshy fields near the water, Cliff and Barn Swallows circled about and a Kingfisher attracted much attention by his feats of diving for fish from a near-by pier. A good number of the beautiful Black-crowned Night Herons disturbed by the park attendants, flew over the tree-tops, where they like to roost and out over the beach. One of them was spied later, by a new Junior, standing quietly at the edge of a pool near a bridge. It was the center of attention all during the lunch hour. We watched it slowly wade a few inches into the water stalking small fish and crabs, that were so plentiful there. Other land birds observed along the fields near the beach and near the golf course were Sparrow Hawk, Anna Hummer, Black Phoebe, California Jay, Meadow Lark, House Finch, Savannah Sparrow, California Shrike, and Western Robin. The shore birds observed were Pintail Duck, Clapper Rail, Semi-palmated Plover, Hudsonian Curlew, Western Willet, Least Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Western Sand-piper, Marbled Godwit, Western Gull, California Gull, Forster Tern, and Caspian Tern, making a total of 29 birds.

Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

The following observations have been reported:

2 White-tailed Kites, July 24, Sears Point cut-off, Vallejo. Enid Austin.

Arizona Hooded Orioles and young, July 22, Oakland. Donald Brock.

A pair of Arizona Hooded Orioles with one young, July 7, 8 and 9, Vacaville, Solano County. Dorothy Chandler.

2 Northern Phalaropes, August 7, Lake Merritt. 1 White-winged Scoter (covered with oil) August 8, Lake Merritt. Vee K. Curtis.

3 Northern Phalaropes, Oakland approach S. F. Bridge, Aug. 2. Amy Rinehart.

Fall Migration of Pintails

The count of the Fall migration of Pintail Ducks was taken this year at Lake Merritt, Oakland, California each day at about 6:30 p.m. Throughout the summer there have been 10 males and 1 female Pintail, all cripples, on the Lake. The non-

cripples had all left. The migration count started on the same date, Aug. 5th as in 1943 and is as follows: Aug. 5-11; 6-17; 7-17; 8-26; 9-36; 11-47; 12-54; 14-64; 16-83; 17-96; 18-106; 19-119; 20-130; 22-137; 23-202. At dusk many of these ducks leave the lake flying westward toward S. F. Bay and return early in the morning.

In addition to these Pintails a female Canvas-back was observed on the average of once a month. It was not a cripple as it was seen rising from the lake and heading south, each time observed.

On Lake Temescal a spotted sandpiper was seen on July 23, 1944.

—Herman V. Leffler

September Meeting

The regular meeting will be held on Thursday the 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco. Mrs. Junea W. Kelly will be the speaker. Her subject will be "Shore Birds". The talk will be illustrated with study skins. We are very fortunate in having Mrs. Kelly, who is instructor in the Extension Div. Dept. of the University of California, as our speaker.

September Field Trip

On Sunday, September 10th, a trip will be taken to the Alameda beaches to observe shore birds. Notice that this trip is one week ahead of our usual trip time, on account of the tides. Members from San Francisco take bus "O" on Fremont Street at the S. F. Terminal at 9:27 a.m. Get off at Santa Clara and High Streets in Alameda, then walk to Liberty Avenue and Fernside Blvd. by walking through or around the eastern end of Lincoln Park, where the party meets at 10:15 a.m. East Bay members take bus 51 or 58 at 16th and Broadway in Oakland and get off at Santa Clara and High Streets where S. F. members do.

We are very fortunate to have as our leader on this trip Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, a former president of our organization.

Junior Field Trip

On Saturday, September 16, to Golden Gate Park, S. F.: Leaders, Mrs. E. Richardson and Miss C. A. Paroni. Meet at University and Shattuck, Berkeley for 8:30 a.m. train, thence by No. 5 car, McAllister, to 45th and Fulton Sts. Bring lunches and field glasses.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.
Membership dues, payable January 1st, $3.00 per year.

Student memberships, $1.50 per year. Life memberships, $50.00.
Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.